Community Empowerment Collective Society

Community Empowerment on WikiEducator

Thank you for joining the Community Empowerment Collective (CEC) on WikiEducator. The Community Empowerment Collective has an extensive web site of training materials in community mobilizing – take a look at   http://www.cec.vcn.bc.ca/ and wander through the site. We have partnered with WikiEducator to make our material more available, and to develop teaching resources based on our training material.

All our material can be edited and rearranged, so long as the source is cited (to avoid plagiarism) and Wiki technology is well designed to do that (copyleft, not copyright).

We do not want to duplicate the material from the Community Empowerment (CE) site, but to enhance it and to develop open Education Resources (OER).

I am the web smith and author of most of the material.
Please call me Phil.

To work with us in WikiEducator, you will need an account and a user page. Those of you who are translating should get more user pages, one per language. To get an account, you register by going to my user page, looking at the box at the top of the page, and signing up.

http://www.wikieducator.org/User:Philbartle

Let me know as soon as you have an account and a user page, and I will begin to help you edit it for our work.

The training material in our CE site (www.cec.vcn.bc.ca/) – which can be downloaded for free – is mainly for community workers: it consists of strategies, methodology, curriculum, management and planning material useful to teams initiating or upgrading any community empowerment or development programme. Other topics include poverty reduction, gender strategy, facilitation, income generation, capacity development, monitoring, brainstorming, community participation, social animation and empowerment. Our whole methodology is based on sustainable

development and intended for using in developing countries and low-income communities anywhere.

Our CE site has no advertising, no budget and no paid staff. Everyone who contributes to the group is a volunteer and we are spread all over the world. The statistics (Google Analytics) reveal that our pages get between 450,000 and 500,000 (half a million) page visits every month (almost 20,000 a day).

The CE site is divided into a series of modules, with each module having a main or introductory page (Hub) and a series of sub-pages (satellites) with different types of documents for different users or about different aspects of the topic.

Our WikiEducator Educator Resources are mainly organized along the same topic, and supplement the training material.

For volunteers there are no deadlines. We realize volunteers (including ourselves) have many other things to do! However, please let us know if at any time later on things come up and you can't continue for any reason. Also, when you temporarily suspend your work, please keep in touch.

From the Junction Page of the CE web site, look at the bootom, and see a link to a page called Useful Links.

Because we are so dispersed geographically, we have a special interest in team building, and finding ways for volunteers to communicate with each other. One way we recommend is using Face Book. On the Useful Links page, you will see a link to face Book. Please sign up and link to other members of the Community Empowerment Collective. Also, in Face Book join our group, the Community Empowerment Group.

We have two Yahoo discussion groups. Go to the Useful Links page again and see the two: one for members, containing technical issues for the work, and one for everybody, containing issues about community strengthening and sustainable development.

If you have joined us as a Coordinator, you belong to the backbone of the CEC. Since our budget is zero, volunteers work for free, but they need to be encouraged, reminded, and guided.

That is where you come in. We need you to be available to the volunteers every day, and your quick responses will encourage them. You do not have to speak the language of the volunteers you coordinate. In turn you are supported by Janita. Call on her for advice on new volunteers. If you write to me, I will probably refer you to her, but I always enjoy questions about content, especially any issues that may not be easy to translate. I also appreciate it when you discover errors (typos and link breaks) in the documents.

Please keep your eyes open for possible illustrators, on line and in your home area.

I can also send you a poster to put up in your local community centre, seniors or disabled centres, colleges or any other appropriate public locations. You may wish to design your own, and I hope you share it with the rest of us.

Thanks again and let me know if you have any questions.

Phil Bartle
Web Smith
Community Empowerment Collective